

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A particle-measuring system,
provided in a processing system for generating an
atmosphere including atmospheric air or a gas exhausted
5 from within a processing chamber by a vacuum pump, and
for processing an object relating to a semiconductor
manufacturing in this atmosphere, and

installed on an exhaust pipe that connects between
an exhaust opening of the processing chamber and the
10 vacuum pump, for measuring the number of particles
included in the exhaust gas.

2. The particle-measuring system according to
claim 1, comprising:

a laser beam irradiator for irradiating laser
15 beams to within the exhaust pipe along a line
connecting between a center point of a cross section of
the exhaust pipe and a center axis passing vertically
through a center of the processing chamber; and

a scattered light detector provided in a direction
20 approximately orthogonal with an irradiation direction
of the laser beams, for detecting scattered lights from
the particles.

3. The particle-measuring system according to
claim 2, wherein

25 the laser beam irradiator irradiates laser beams
onto a portion of high density of particles included in
an exhaust gas exhausted from within the exhaust pipe,

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and

the scattered light detector directs a detection direction to the portion of high density of particles included in the exhaust gas exhausted from within the exhaust pipe, in a direction approximately orthogonal with the irradiation direction of the laser beams.

4. The particle-measuring system according to claim 2, wherein

a center of the scattered light detector is set to direct to a point offset by a predetermined distance from the center point of the cross section of the exhaust pipe in a direction opposite to a direction in which the center axis passing vertically through the center of the processing chamber is positioned.

5. The particle-measuring system according to claim 1, comprising:

a laser beam irradiator for irradiating laser beams so that the laser beams are transmitted through a point offset by a predetermined distance from the center point of the cross section of the exhaust pipe in a direction opposite to a direction in which the center axis passing vertically through the center of the processing chamber is positioned; and

a scattered light detector provided in a direction approximately orthogonal with an irradiation direction of the laser beams, for detecting scattered lights from the particles.

6. The particle-measuring system according to claim 4, wherein

a maximum value of the predetermined offset distance is 0.75 times the radius of the exhaust pipe.

5 7. The particle-measuring system according to claim 5, wherein

a maximum value of the predetermined offset distance is 0.75 times the radius of the exhaust pipe.

10 8. The particle-measuring system according to claim 1, wherein the exhaust pipe is installed at a position

where light generated within the processing chamber do not reach position, a distance from the processing chamber is minimum, and there are high and
15 low densities of particle included in the exhaust gas within the exhaust pipe.

9. A particle-measuring method for measuring the number of particles included in an exhaust gas exhausted from a processing system for generating an
20 atmosphere including atmospheric air or a gas exhausted from within a processing chamber by a vacuum pump, and for processing an object relating to a semiconductor manufacturing in this atmosphere,

the method comprising the steps of:
25 modeling parameters;

carrying out a numerical simulation for expressing trajectory of an exhaust gas that includes particles

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confirming an optimum position for measuring

determining sensor installation position;

evaluating a measurement of particle,

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steps of:

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modeling processing conditions including a kind of

a gas, a pressure, a flow rate, and temperature;

modeling particle conditions including a composition, a density and sizes of particles generated; and

5 modeling constructional members and a position for generating the particles.

11. The particle-measuring method according to claim 9, wherein the trajectory numerical simulation is obtained based on the number of openings of exhaust
10 pipes provided in the chamber, their shapes, their layout positions, and a flow rate of the exhaust gas.

12. A particle-measuring system, provided in a processing system for generating an atmosphere including atmospheric air or a gas exhausted from
15 within a processing chamber by a vacuum pump, and for processing an object relating to a semiconductor manufacturing in this atmosphere,

the particle-measuring system comprising:

a sensor manifold installed in air-tight in front
20 of the vacuum pipe in the middle of the exhaust pipe connected to the processing chamber, and having a rotating mechanism;

a laser beam irradiator installed on the sensor manifold, and having a driving mechanism movable in a
25 radial direction of the exhaust pipe;

a beam stopper installed on the sensor manifold opposite to the laser beam irradiator, and having a

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driving mechanism movable in a direction to face
straight the laser beam irradiator, for receiving
irradiated laser beams; and

5 a scattered light detector installed on the sensor
manifold in a direction approximately orthogonal with
the irradiation direction of the laser beams, and
having a driving mechanism movable in two-dimensional
directions, for detecting the laser light scattered by
the particles;

10 a position controller for operating the driving
mechanisms of the laser beam irradiator and the beam
stopper so that the laser beams pass through an area in
which the density of the particles is high in the
sensor manifold assumed by simulation, and for moving
15 the scattered light detector to a position for
detecting scattered lights from the high-density area;
and

20 a controller/processor for controlling the laser
beam irradiator and the scattered light detector and
for processing a measurement result obtained.

13. The particle-measuring system according to
claim 12, wherein each driving mechanism has a motor or
a linear motor as a driving source.

25 14. The particle-measuring system according to
claim 12, wherein the sensor manifold is connected in
airtight to the exhaust pipe so as to be rotatable
around the exhaust pipe by a magnetic fluid seal.

15. A particle-measuring method for measuring the number of particles included in an exhaust gas exhausted from a processing system for generating an atmospheric air or a process gas exhausted from within a processing chamber by a vacuum exhaust system, and for processing an object relating to a semiconductor manufacturing in this atmosphere, the particle measuring method using a system having a laser irradiator, a scattered light detector and a beam stopper for measuring the number of particles by irradiating laser beams to particles generated within the processing chamber,

the particle-measuring method comprising the steps of:

selecting an area in which the density of particles is high by carrying out a simulation based on information on constructional members including the processing chamber and other members disposed inside the processing chamber, information on the vacuum exhaust system, and information on the process gas;

adjusting a position of the laser beam irradiator so that the laser beam irradiator can irradiate laser beams in an area in which the density of particles is high based on the simulation;

adjusting a position of the beam stopper to face the laser irradiator so that the beam stopper can receive laser beams passed through the high-density

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area;

adjusting a position of the scattered light
detector so that the scattered light detector can
detect scattered lights of the laser beams passed
5 through the high-density area;

irradiating by the laser irradiator the laser
beams to an area in which the density of particles is
high;

detecting by the scattered light detector the
10 scattered lights of the laser beams passed through the
high-density area; and

calculating the number of particles from the
scattered lights detected.

16. A particle-measuring method for measuring the
15 number of particles included in an exhaust gas
exhausted from a processing system for generating an
atmospheric air or a gas exhausted from within a
processing chamber by vacuum exhausting, the particle
measuring method for measuring particles using a
20 particle-measuring system having a laser position
adjusting unit,

the particle-measuring method comprising the steps
of:

determining an optimum position of installing a
25 sensor by simulation, and inputting the installation
position information to a position controller of the
laser position adjusting unit;

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inputting processing conditions to the position
controller of the laser position-adjusting unit;

adjusting by the position controller a laser beam
irradiator, a scattered light detector, a beam stopper

5 and a sensor manifold to optimum positions
 respectively; and

measuring by the sensor particles generated within the processing chamber.

17. The particle-measuring system according to
claim 1, wherein processing chamber has a wall, the
exhaust opening is made in a given part of the wall,
the exhaust pipe extends horizontally, vertically or
slantwise, and a trajectory of particles is simulated
with respect to a direction in which air or gas is
exhausted through the exhaust pipe.